

REMARKS

Claims 3 – 16, 19 – 21 and 24 - 26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 27 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 3 – 8 and 12. Applicants also note that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. However, as Applicants explain below, Applicants believe that all of the claims are currently in condition for allowance and, therefore, placing claim 19 into independent form does not appear to be necessary.

In section 1 of the Office Action claim 15 is objected to because of an informality. Applicants are amending claim 15 to address the informality. Applicants are also amending claim 15 to delete recitals that do not appear to be necessary for patentability. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

In section 3 of the Office Action, claims 9, 11, 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting an element that illuminates first raster elements. Applicants are deleting a passage from claim 9 that does not appear to be necessary for patentability. The deletion of the passage obviates the section 112 rejection. Claims 11, 13 and 19 depend from claim 9, and so, Applicants submit that the section 112 rejection is fully addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 112 rejection.

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 9, 11, 13 – 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,677,939 to Oshino (hereinafter "the Oshino patent"). Of this set of rejected claims, six claims are independent, namely claims 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26. Applicant is clarifying an aspect of claims 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26 that is not disclosed by the Oshino patent.

Claim 9 provides for an illumination system. The illumination system includes, *inter alia*, a first optical element, which is divided into first raster elements and lies in a first plane. The first plane defines

an x-direction and a y-direction, and the illumination system provides a Koehler illumination in the x-direction and y-direction of the first plane.

The Oshino patent is directed to an illuminating apparatus (Abstract). With reference to FIG. 1, the Oshino patent describes a reflection type optical integrator 2 that is provided with reflecting surfaces for effecting the critical illumination in the meridional direction and reflecting surfaces for effecting the Koehler illumination in the sagittal direction (col. 9, lines 42 – 46). Thus, the Oshino patent apparently discloses Koehler illumination in only one direction.

Whereas in the Oshino patent discloses Koehler illumination in only **one direction**, the Oshino patent does not disclose a Koehler illumination in said **x-direction and y-direction**, as recited in claim 9. Hence, the Oshino patent does not disclose claim 9.

Claims 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26 each include a recital similar to that of claim 9, as described above. As such, claims 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26, for reasoning similar to that of claim 9, are also novel over the Oshino patent.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from claim 9, claim 16 depends from claim 15, claim 24 depends from claim 20, and claim 25 depends from claim 21. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 11, 13, 16, 24 and 25 are also novel over the Oshino patent.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 9, 11, 13 – 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26.

In section 7 of the Office Action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oshino patent.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9. As explained above during the discussion of claim 9, the Oshino patent disclose a reflection type optical integrator 2 that is provided with reflecting surfaces for effecting the critical illumination in the meridional direction and reflecting surfaces for effecting the Koehler

illumination in the sagittal direction. Whereas the Oshino patent expressly discloses critical illumination in the meridional direction, the Oshino patent does not disclose or suggest a Koehler illumination in two directions, and therefore, does not disclose or suggest a Koehler illumination in said x-direction and y-direction, as recited in claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9, and claim 10 by virtue of its dependence on claim 9, are both patentable over the Oshino patent.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claim 10.

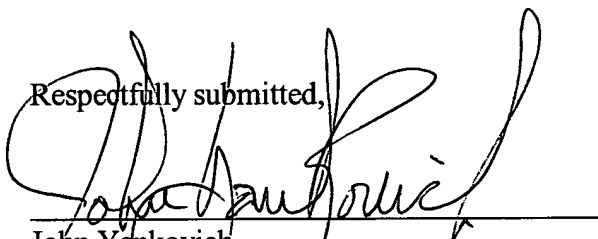
As mentioned above, Applicants are amending claim 15 to address an objection and to delete recitals that do not appear to be necessary for patentability, deleting a passage from claim 9 that does not appear to be necessary for patentability, and clarifying an aspect of claims 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26 that is not disclosed by the Oshino patent. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the meaning of any term of the claims, and as such, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the elements of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date

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Respectfully submitted,


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